

**Lieutenant Governor
Joseph E. Kernan, Director**
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
TEL 317 232 8800
www.indianacommerce.com

For Immediate Release: Aug. 1, 2003

Media Contact: Jenina Cody, Indiana Department of Commerce, 317.233.3040
Doris Sims, Commerce Region 10 office, 812.856.4093

Metaldyne Expands, Commerce Awards Grants

NORTH VERNON—Metaldyne Sintered Components, one of North America's leading producers of engine connecting rods, will expand its facility in North Vernon, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today.

Located in North Vernon, Ind., Metaldyne Sintered Components will invest \$13 million in infrastructure improvements and new equipment to facilitate a new machine finishing line. The company will also create 13 new jobs and retrain 180 existing employees in skills necessary for the expansion. The investment made by Metaldyne will generate an additional \$15 million in annual sales and will allow the company to compete for additional customers such as Cummins and Hyundai.

"The jobs that Metaldyne's efforts will create are a welcome addition to our economy," said Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director for the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Indiana is a great place to do business, and with Jennings County's skilled workforce, Metaldyne Sintered Components can look forward to a bright future."

Metaldyne, headquartered in Plymouth, Mich., is a combination of the largest independent forging capability, one of the largest independent machining and assembly capabilities and the largest manufacturer of thin-wall precision die castings for auto applications in North America. With 50 manufacturing operations in over 11 countries and over 7,250 employees worldwide, the company had sales of over \$1.5 billion in 2002.

"We have been working on this project for several months. The hard work and dedication of our team, the support of city officials and the support of the Economic Development Commission paid off," said Dave Tempest, Metaldyne's operations manager. "Not only will this expansion allow us to create new jobs, but there is now potential for future expansion."

-more-

Metaldyne's ability to produce and integrate a wide range of metal-based components, assemblies and modules for chassis, engine, driveline and transmission applications makes the company a valuable resource in its industry. From single components, such as those produced at the North Vernon facility, to complete systems, Metaldyne's products can be found in cars, trucks, mini-vans, SUVs and off-highway vehicles around the world.

"We are very excited about the commitment Metaldyne Sintered Components has made to North Vernon," said Doris Sims, director of Commerce's Region 10 office. "The investment the company is making in our community will mean new jobs and economic growth, which is always good news."

To ensure the company's expansion in North Vernon, the state and the city of North Vernon worked together to offer an aggressive incentive package. The Indiana Department of Commerce offered \$100,000 from its Skills Enhancement Fund to assist training new and existing employees. In partnership with the Department of Workforce Development, Commerce also offered \$50,000 from its Technology Enhancement Certifications for Hoosiers Fund, which can be used to train existing information technology professionals. In addition, the city of North Vernon offered Metaldyne \$100,000 for building renovations and a 10-year tax abatement valued at \$993,600.

"Metaldyne took the first step in positioning themselves for future expansion by receiving this new finishing line," said Trevor Lane, director of the Jennings County Economic Development Commission. "This brings a whole new business to Metaldyne, North Vernon, and will enable the company to compete internationally. The quality of North Vernon's workforce was a strong point in this expansion, as well as the assistance from local and state governments."

Metaldyne is now qualified to apply for the new Hoosier Business Investment Credit. This 30% tax credit is available to Indiana businesses that make qualified capital investments, such as equipment purchases for facility upgrades, new facility development, onsite infrastructure improvements and costs associated with retooling existing machinery and equipment.

Companies interested in learning more about the training grants or other Commerce incentives should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

###